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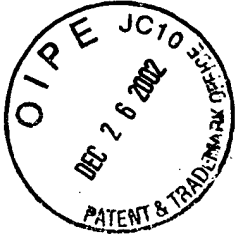
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December 20, 2002



Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box: Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 20, 2002.

Signature

Elaine Johnson

Elaine Johnson

Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

BOX: NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Inventor: Rick Meritt
U. S. Patent Application Entitled UNITARY CONSTRUCTION ANIMAL
FEEDER AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE
Serial No.: 09/920,231
Filed: August 1, 2001
Our File No.: 124571-1000

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing please find the following items relating to the above-identified:

1. Response to Office Action (9 pp.); and
2. Return postcard.

Please file the above-referenced documents and return the date-stamped postcard to our office at the above address. It is believed that no additional fees are due. If this is incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-0153.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please call the undersigned at your earliest convenience. Otherwise, please accept the enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP

JR Fulmer

Jason R. Fulmer

JRF:mej
Enclosures

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of Rick Meritt

Examiner: Susan L. Piascik

Serial No.: 09/920,231

Art Unit: 3643

Filed: August 1, 2001

For: UNITARY CONSTRUCTION ANIMAL FEEDER AND
METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

BOX: NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action, mailed September 26, 2002, due for response on or before December 26, 2002. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and allowance of the claims pending in this application, in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendment

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 2 and 9-13.

Please amend claim 1 and add new claim 22 as follows:

1. (amended) An animal feeder comprising:
- a feed hopper having a filling end and a feeding end, wherein the filling end has a cover having an access door with a hinged lid for opening and closing off the opening of the access door, the hinged lid having at least one recess to enable the hinged lid to be breathable,
 - at least three legs, the proximate ends of the legs permanently attached to the feed hopper, and

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